

Message Text

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S E C R E T KINSHASA 7307

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, CG, AO

SUBJECT: GOA ON ANGOLAN/ZAIRIAN RELATIONS

REF: A) KINSHASA 7246; B) KINSHASA 7211

SUMMARY: ANGOLANS VAGUELY ENDORSE MOBUTU'S BORDER ZONE PROPOSAL, AGREE TO MEET WITH GOZ REPS IN BRAZZAVILLE JULY 16, BUT PLAY A CAUTIOUS HAND. END SUMMARY.

1. IN COMPANY WITH AMB. MCHENRY, JUNIOR HAD BACK-TO-BACK SESSIONS AFTERNOON JULY 12 WITH LUVUALU AND NASCIMENTO TO RELAY MOBUTU VIEWS (REF B) ON BORDER ASPECTS OF ANGOLA/ZAIRIAN RELATIONS. LUVUALA MORNING JULY 13 CONVEYED ANGOLAN INITIAL REACTION TO JUNIOR FOR GOZ INFORMATION.

2. SESSIONS WITH LUVUALU AND NASCIMENTO WERE LOW-KEYED AND FOCUSED ON FULL UNDERSTANDING BY ANGOLANS OF WHAT MOBUTU HAS IN MIND. MCHENRY AND JUNIOR DID SOME DISCREET EDITORIALIZING, EMPHASIZING TO ANGOLANS THAT WE HAD STRESSED WITH MOBUTU NEED FOR PHASED, RECIPROCAL ACTIONS WHICH WOULD PROGRESSIVELY RAISE THE SENSE OF SECURITY ON BOTH SIDES BY PRAGMATIC DE-ESCALATION OF TENSIONS. WE ALSO NOTED THAT, WHILE MOBUTU WAS WILLING TO SEND A DELEGATION TO BRAZZAVILLE FOR A MEETING WITH THE ANGOLANS BEFORE KHARTOUM, AN ILL-PREPARED MEETING IN A
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RUSH COULD, IN OUR VIEW, BE WORSE THAN NONE AT ALL. SOME PREPARATORY WORK TO ASSURE THAT THERE WAS SOME PROSPECT OF SUCCESS WAS NECESSARY.

3. NASCIMENTO PROMISED TO, AND ALTHOUGH LUVUALU DID, PROVIDE THE ANGOLAN REACTION ON THE FOLLOWING MORNING, JULY 13, ON INSTRUCTION FROM PRESIDENT NETO.

4. PER LUVUALU, NETO QTE AGREES UNQUTE TO SEND A DELEGATION (LEVEL AND NUMBERS UNSPECIFIED) TO BRAZZAVILLE FOR MEETING WITH ZAIRIAN DELEGATION ON SUNDAY, JULY 16. ANGOLAN AMBASSADOR IN BRAZZAVILLE IS BEING INSTRUCTED TO SO INFORM CONGOLESE. LUVUALU NOTED THAT MOBUTU INTENDS THAT "NEUTRAL ZONE" BE CREATED ALONG THE BORDER, A CONCEPT THE ANGOLANS FOUND "GOOD." HOWEVER, THE GOZ MUST ALSO "DISMANTLE" THE UNITA, FLNA AND FLEC ORGANIZATIONS IN ZAIRE.

5. BEYOND THE FOREGOING LUVUALA WAS LOATH TO GO. IN RESPONSE TO QUERIES FROM JUNIOR (THE BETTER TO CONVEY ANGOLAN VIEWS TO GOZ), LUVUALU WOULD ONLY SAY THAT BRAZZAVILLE MEETING WOULD BE IN RESPONSE TO GOZ SUGGESTION AND THAT, AS FAR AS GOA IS CONCERNED, THERE WOULD BE NO AGENDA. IT WOULD NOT, IN GOA VIEW, COMPRISE A MEETING OF MIXED COMMISSION. LUVUALA SAID GOA CONSIDERS THIS MEETING AS A SPECIFIC RESPONSE TO MOBUTU'S MESSAGE BUT THAT ANGOLA WOULD, OF COURSE, EXPRESS ITS OWN IDEAS.

6. COMMENT: LUVUALU WAS CLEARLY UNDER TIGHT INSTRUCTIONS NOT TO TIP GOA HAND TO US. PERHAPS AS A RESULT, GOA STANCE APPEARS LESS POSITIVE THAN MIGHT HAVE BEEN HOPED. BUT THEY HAVE GIVEN AN ENDORSEMENT (HOWEVER VAGUE) TO FRONTIER ZONE CONCEPT AND TAKEN UP MOBUTU'S WILLINGNESS TO HAVE A MEETING BEFORE KHARTOUM. IF ONE OF BOTH SIDES GO INTRA-SIGANT TO BRAZZAVILLE, THEY MAY FORCE THEMSELVES BACK TO SQUARE ONE. BUT FROM HERE THERE SEEMS TO BE ROOM FOR MILD
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OPTIMISM.

7. SINCE DRAFTING FOREGOING, AMB HAS BEEN IN TOUCH WITH MOBUTU TO SUMMARIZE OUTCOME OF TALKS IN LUANDA AND TO MAKE APPOINTMENT (0830 LOCAL JULY 14) FOR JUNIOR TO GIVE MOBUTU FULLER BRIEFING. MOBUTU SAID HE HAD NO PROBLEM WITH GOA PROPOSAL FOR MEETING IN BRAZZAVILLE JULY 16.

8. EVENTS PERMITTING, JUNIOR PLANS TRANSIT BRAZZAVILLE JULY 14 EN ROUTE HOME. EHILE THERE HE PLANS TO JOIN CHARGE KATZEN IN BRIEFING CONGOLESE ON STATE OF PLAY AND TO CONVEY POINTS CONTAINED IN APPROVED GUIDANCE. WE PLAN TO URGE THEM TO DO THEIR MAXIMUM IN WAY OF PRELIMINARY SPADEWORK TO HELP ASSURE A PRODUCTIVE OUTCOME ON THE SPECIFIC BORDER ISSUES AT HAND.

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